Raid by income Tax officials at the premises of M/s. Mehta Industries of Bangalore

1573. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income Tax officials raided the premises of M/s. Mehta Industries, a large industrial house of Bangalore on the 1st January, 1986;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 300 Income Tax officials were engaged in the raid;

(c) whether the raids were simultaneously carried out at the office premises of M/s. Mehta Industries at Tumkur and Mysore also;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(e) whether this company also has several foreign collaboration agreements; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Income-tax Department has not conducted any searches in the case of M/s. Mehta Industries on 1st January, 1986.

(e) and (f) Three subsidiary companies of M/s. Mehta Industries have entered into collaboration agreement with foreign companies. The details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Names of the subsidiary Indian companeis	Names of the foreign companies
1	Sri Chamund swari Metal Pvt. Ltd.	Cycles Peugeot Moped France.
2	M/s. Deepak Insulated Cable Corpn. Ltd., Bangalore	M/s. Showa Electric Wire and Cable Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan.
3	M/s. Karnataka Ball Bearings Corpn, Ltd.	M/s. Mitchi-Fuji kosh Corpn. Ltd., Japan

Tobacco Crop affected by 'White Fly'

1574. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of tobacco crop was badly affected by the spread of 'white fly' during the current year;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment of the losses suffered as a result thereof;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to provide relief to the tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) An area of about 46,000 hectares of tobacco Crop was affected by the spread of 'White Fly' during October-November, 1985.

(b) to (d) Due to plant protection measures taken by the farmers and on receipt of rains in December, followed by favourable weather conditions later, the crop recovered considerably. However, the early planted crop in an area of about

13,000 Hectares did not recover fully leading to some loss in the yield. As most of the area has recovered, no specific relief has been considered necessary.

Export by STC

1575. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has failed to boost exports through its official channels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the STC has found fit to export diamonds to Zale Corporation of the USA which deals mainly edible oil;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to institute an inquiry to find out irregularities in the above deal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) STC has not made any export of diamonds to Zale Corporation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Agency to provide Employment Abroad

1576. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency to provide employment to the Indian workers who seek employment abroad; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to constitute a National Employment Board to promote employment abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Recruitment can be carried out either by the recruiting agencies or the State-owned Manpower Corporations registered with the Government. The Indian construction companies also recruit workers directly for executing projects abroad after obtaining permission to do so.

(b) No, Sir.

Growth rate of employment during Sixth Plan period

1577. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the growth rate of employment during the Sixth Plan period;

(b) whether there has been any decline in the rate of employment during the above period; if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) what was the backlog at the end of the Fifth Plan period; and

(d) what was the number of job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges at the end of 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to the Seventh Five Year Plan documents, the growth rate of employment during the Sixth Plan period was 4.32 per cent.

(c) The backlog of usual status unemployment was around 12 millions in the age group 5 and above.

(d) 26.3 millions job-seekers were registered with the Employment Exchanges at the end of 1985.

Reopening of Hotel Siddharth

1578. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management running the Hotel Siddharth in New Delhi, which was closed due to fire, has sought Government's permission to reopen the Hotel; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) According to